

time when in preparing a new novel he had assembled a number of facts, he proceeded to draw deductions from them, to weigh all probabilities and possibilities ; and his mind being thus trained, dealt in the same way with all the current events in which he took interest. During his year's stay in England at the time of the Dreyfus case he repeatedly told the writer that he felt sure so-and-so would happen, and in nine cases out of ten his predictions were accurate. At times when, the writer went to him with a preconceived opinion or some forecast taken from a newspaper it was particularly interesting to hear him analyse it, examine it under every aspect, and confirm or refute it in accordance with his view of the probabilities. On such occasions his systematical and logical mind was fully revealed ; and one may say that the prescience which he often displayed was far more a matter of knowledge and logic than of inspiration. The latter undoubtedly carne to his aid on some notable occasions, but even when he so fervently declared his belief in the innocence of Captain Dreyfus— at a time when all positive proof thereof seemed lacking — he at least had some logical basis for his belief which his expertness in deduction had intensified.<sup>1</sup>

It has been pointed out that several of Zola's later books influenced the community, or at least a large section of it,

in connection notably with the struggle between Church and State in France. "Germinal" and "Travail," which circulated widely among the working classes, must also have exercised considerable influence. Of recent years the latter

<sup>1</sup> As the result of constant exercise, Ms mind often worked with great rapidity in these matters, the various aspects of a case and its possibilities coming to him almost in a flash.